Today is the first day of the 111th Congress and, as the *Fort Wayne Journal Gazette* reports , there is much to look forward to. Not only is there an ambitious agenda awaiting the new Administration and the new Congress, but there will be Hoosiers who will be directly impacting the legislative process, Congressman Pence being one of them:

After the election in November, Pence was selected the House Republicans' No. 3 leader and will take the lead in forming and selling the GOP message during this session of Congress.

He represents the Muncie-Anderson area.

As chairman of the House Republican Conference, Pence heads the party's communication operation.

Republicans, who have 37 fewer members than House Democrats, will have to decide how confrontational they want to be with Obama, and Pence will be at the table as that calculation is made.

He makes the case for avoiding "unnecessary acrimony."

In a recent interview, Pence said Republicans "have a duty to be the loyal opposition," but if the GOP offers "positive substantive alternatives without unnecessary acrimony, the American people will soon tire of the flowery speeches and see the Democratic agenda for what it is: the failed ideas of the Great Society and the New Deal."